

Inflation Reduction Act's MADE in America Act so that the MADE in America Act and Produced in America Act will now also include Japan and their production, will now also include Germany and their production.

May I just say to you, one of the largest new North American battery manufacturers for EV just got moved to Canada, not the United States—so much for “past administrations have fought to get around it, but not anymore.” This administration is working around the MADE in America, Buy American Act right now for green energy. Where did they get their supplies and their critical minerals? It is not from the United States; it is from China.

In the energy environment—while I am still talking through that as well—the Willow Project has been talked about greatly with Alaska and saying that now ConocoPhillips is going to be able to produce off three platforms more oil coming from Alaska. That is good, by the way. We have a steady supply of oil that can come for a very long time from Alaska, and it has been blocked off over and over and over again, when the law states that property is set aside for energy production.

But in the process, the Biden administration not only allowed three platforms to start producing oil, but then they blocked off 3 million new acres from production—3 million.

There was recently, in the United Arab Emirates, a set of meetings in the Middle East dealing with the Abraham Accords. It is interesting, when I am traveling around that absolutely beautiful country and seeing the wealth that is there, I couldn't help but think, this is what Alaska would look like if the Federal Government would actually allow energy production there like there is energy production in the UAE. But our Nation won't allow it. Instead, we are still buying from other nations rather than allowing full production on our own. You can't make this stuff up.

If you talk to a developer right now, they will tell you it is very hard to develop new neighborhoods and new locations because they can't get transformers, those little boxes that sit on the edges of neighborhoods. Some of those are the transformers that are up high. Those transformers have a 99.55 percent efficiency—99.55 percent efficiency. I wish I had that layer of efficiency.

The Biden administration just put out new rules for those transformers—that are very hard to get right now because they are back-ordered—to add a 0.1 percent new energy efficiency requirement on them. Remember, they are already 99.55 percent efficient. They want them to be 99.65 percent efficient, so they are moving just that little decimal right there. To do that, it is going to slow down production of the transformers again—could be up to 16 months slower—and it will increase the cost by hundreds of millions of dollars.

So when your electricity bill goes up and they are not able to continue building an expansion, that is not the fault of your electric company; that is the fault of your Federal Government right now so they can brag about increasing production by 0.1 percent on something that is already 99.55 percent efficient.

Put this on top of the Biden administration's new exploration to be able to cut off gas stoves. They initially announced from two different Agencies that they are going to try to end gas stoves in America and then quickly pulled that back and only said: Oh, no, we are just going to study gas stoves in America, and we are going to look at trying to be able to shut those off in the future, but we are not going to do that right now leading up to the election because there are millions and millions of people who use gas stoves, which, by the way, have been studied for years across the country.

This is not an issue about particulars in the house; this is an issue about an administration that doesn't care about the cost to the consumer, as long as they can say they got their way.

It is the same exact issue on the EPA's heavy-duty electric vehicle emissions rule. That rule is rightly being addressed by my colleague from Nebraska, who is going after a very simple thing that the EPA is trying to be able to do in this Biden administration that will raise the cost of trucks up to \$8,000 per vehicle. Listen, there are a lot of long-haul folks who cannot afford \$8,000 per vehicle just to be able to follow a new Biden administration policy.

Listen, I put all these things together because as I read the news and as I go through the different things that I go through on a daily basis and be able to read through things, at some point, I look at it, and I think, Who says this makes sense? Where are these things coming from? If I pull any one of these out and put them in front of the vast majority of people in Oklahoma and ask, Is this the direction the country needs to go, they will say no.

This Senate needs to talk about the direction the Nation is going when you put controls around Agencies, that they just can't make up the rules based on their own preferences.

This is not just an issue for our consumers; this body had a wake-up call this weekend when we watched China broker a deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and the U.S. State Department was not at the table because our foreign policies are collapsing around the world. That is a threat to American national security. It is not just an absence of American policy making a difference, it is an absence of our American values. When China's values are on the move worldwide, that is not a safer world that we are living in. We need to shift the direction this is going. And it needs to be soon.

With that, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, almost 20 years ago, a family in Idaho purchased a lot in a residential area near Priest Lake.

They were looking to build a home. They obtained county building permits and started placing sand and gravel on their property to get it ready for the build. But shortly after the family began preparing their lot, the Environmental Protection Agency told them to stop. There was water on their building plot with no surface water connection to any body of water. But because of its proximity to Priest Lake, the EPA said that placing sand and gravel on the property violated the Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of pollutants, such as the rocks and sand used to prepare a building plot into navigable waters.

Navigable waters are ambiguously defined by the Clean Water Act as “waters of the United States.” That is more commonly known as WOTUS.

Normally, navigable waters are defined as waters that are deep; they are wide; and they are calm enough for boats or ships to go across. The surface water on the Idaho family's lot certainly doesn't fit that bill.

The Idaho family tried to challenge the EPA. They sought a hearing, but the EPA chose not to grant them one and, instead, continued to assert the Clean Water Act jurisdiction against their land. So Michael and Chantell Sackett sued.

They had been to the Supreme Court once, and they are back again this year. They still haven't been able to build on the property that they first acquired in 2004.

The Sackett v. EPA Supreme Court case centers on interpretation of the Clean Water Act. What counts as waters of the United States?

In 2015, the Obama administration published an unprecedented expansion of the definition of WOTUS, giving the Federal Government jurisdiction over a State resource—that is, Nebraska's water. It doesn't belong to the Federal Government.

I fought former President Obama's WOTUS rule since my very first term here in the U.S. Senate. The rule was the Federal Government at its worst. It encroached on families, on communities, and on businesses by its brazen intrusion into the precious water resource of my home State of Nebraska—and all the rest of our States as well.

The Trump administration rescinded Obama's WOTUS rule, but when President Biden took office, he reversed that. The President issued a new rule allowing EPA officials in Washington, DC, to make case-by-case determinations of what should be considered water of the United States. Privately owned land containing ponds, puddles, and even dry ditches can now be regulated by the Federal Government. This

needless power grab only places more people under restrictive regulations and rules.

The Federal Government should not have the power to regulate Nebraska's water; Nebraskans should. Nebraska has a special system of natural resource districts that empower locally elected community members to manage water resources based on river basin boundaries. Regular people living their lives at home know better than DC bureaucrats how to use and how to manage their State's natural resources.

That is why I have partnered with my colleague Senator CAPITO in introducing legislation to overturn President Biden's WOTUS rule. The Biden administration is determined to impose an overly restrictive rule right now, and that is before the Supreme Court has an opportunity to decide the Sackett case. We cannot let that happen.

In the past, I have cosponsored a bill targeting the flawed science used by the EPA to expand its definition of WOTUS. I have also helped to introduce legislation that would require Presidential administrations to consult with States and to consult with stakeholders before they impose these restrictions on our State-owned natural resources. This is essential. States understand the complex geological and hydrological factors that affect their own water resources. There is no way that the Federal Government can take all of that into account with its one-size-fits-all regulations.

I dealt with these issues during my time in the Nebraska Legislature, and I know that there are not benefits when the Federal Government tries to take control of State resources through these onerous regulations.

Leave water management to the experts. The States know their own water. The Federal Government needs to stay out of issues that are handled much better under State jurisdiction.

WOTUS is not the issue that everyone wants to talk about, but it is important to regular Americans in Nebraska, in Idaho, and in many other States, and those Americans—well, they are who we are here to represent.

WOTUS has a real, tangible impact on American lives. So let's come together. We can solve this problem that was created by the administration's rash and reckless regulating.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN REDINGTON

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, colleagues who have been around for a

while know that it is usually about this time of the year that I come to the floor to talk about my favorite sporting event. I am not talking about March Madness. I am talking about Alaska's version of March Madness, which is the Iditarod, when teams of dogs led by pretty able athletes embark on a thousand-mile mushing adventure across the wilds of Alaska, beginning down in Anchorage, all the way up to Nome.

This year, it is not quite 1,000 miles. It is 998 miles, as they took the southern route, which they try to alternate during different years.

But it has been an adventure for the 33 teams that ventured out just last Sunday, and I am here to announce that literally 10 minutes ago—perhaps less than 10 minutes ago—the winner has just crossed the finish line under the burlap arch in Nome.

So Alaskans are excited. The Iditarod website has crashed because everybody was checking in to see if Ryan Redington had made it across, and I am here to announce that Ryan Redington is the winner of the 51st Iditarod race in Alaska. He and his team just, as I say, crossed. He has been in the lead for the past several days, but we are really, really quite excited about his win.

I am looking forward to being able to give a call myself to congratulate him, but I know that right now his family, his friends, and everyone who is there in Nome to greet them after this 8-day journey are really quite excited. So he is probably not going to be answering his phone just yet.

The Iditarod is really an extraordinary, extraordinary event. It is an experience like no other. And when they say it takes a village, it really takes a village. All of these little checkpoints along the way—some of them are communities; some of them are literally nothing more than a cabin. So it is an opportunity for the musher and their teams to be checking in, be checked out by the volunteer veterinarians who are along the way; refuel in the sense of feeding their dogs, resting their dogs, getting a little food for themselves, but then traveling on.

Think about what it means to drive a dog team for a thousand miles over this period of time and over terrain like this. Mr. President, you are from a northern State. You appreciate snow. We are not afraid of a little weather, but what these mushers and their teams have been through has been pretty amazing.

I was there at the ceremonial start last week. It was zero in Anchorage. It was a pretty great day to be a dog because it was nice and cool. Temperatures increased along the way. They encountered everything from drizzle to rain to mud, then to deep snow, then to freezing cold, then to gale winds—bumps along the way. It is a grueling test for all of these teams.

But as we look to what comes together to put on a race like this, it is

something that Alaskans take great pride in. This is fueled by volunteers, whether it is the Iditarod Air Force, whether it is the veterinarians who come to volunteer. There is going to be a mushers' banquet up in Nome, where people come from all over the country to come and volunteer to serve dinner and clean up after dinner.

I met a group a couple of years ago. They were from somewhere in Florida. I didn't know the name of the community. But they said that they took vacation every year to come to Alaska, to come to Nome, and their job was dinner rolls. They take a week vacation to go to Nome, AK, from Florida to be there, to be a part of this extraordinary, extraordinary event.

So let me tell you a little bit about Ryan Redington and this race that he has just finished. So we are still looking at the exact number of minutes, but he has been on the trail now for 8 days, 21 hours, and—again, trying to figure out what the minutes are. This is his first-ever victory.

Ryan is 40 years old, but Ryan has a stake in this race perhaps unlike any other young musher out there. He is a legacy musher, to put it in a sense. He was born and raised in Knik, AK. On his mom's side, his great-grandfather was an Inupiat who delivered the mail from Unalakleet to other villages by dogsled. That was how we utilized dog teams back then.

Ryan comes from a family of mushers. His brother and his sister-in-law have competed in sled dog races. His father and his uncle have both raced in the Iditarod. Not only did they compete, but they are in the Iditarod Hall of Fame. His daughter and son are taking up the tradition by taking on racing.

On his dad's side, it is his grandfather, Joe Redington, Sr., who is the founder. We call him the "Father of the Iditarod."

Joe Redington, Sr., has raced that race 20 times—almost 20 times. When he crossed the finish line for his last race in 1997, he was 80 years old—80 years old. Can you imagine being 80 years old and running 1,000 miles standing on the runners, running with your dogs? The Iditarod is not for the faint of heart, and so it is just an example here to say that mushing really runs in Ryan's blood.

In addition to competing in the Iditarod, he has competed in numerous races across Alaska and the lower 48. He is a prior champion of the Junior Iditarod. He was named Iditarod's "Most Improved Musher" back in 2017. He is the 2019 and 2021 champion of the Kobuk 440 in Kotzebue.

So, including this race, Ryan has finished the Iditarod now nine times—nine times. He came in seventh in 2021 and then last year had his third consecutive top-10 finish. He placed ninth. So this is a guy who has given his all—given his all—along with his incredible canine athletes, to be where he is today: No. 1.